Government of Orissa has informed that UNICEF and State Commission for Women (SCW) have entered into a partnership in 2006 to check maternal deaths in Orissa, especially in rural areas. Under the initiative, Lok Adalats are being organized where safe motherhood is addressed as a fundamental right of the women. The Adalat brings the right holder (the pregnant women/ mothers etc.) and the duty bearers face to face for interaction.

Such Lok Adalats are being organized in 15 districts. The Adalats have been attended by 8000 women, 80 field functionaries, 40 district Administration & health officials, more than 50 NGOs.

(c) No request for assistance has been received either from the State Commission for Women or Government of Orissa in the matter so far.

India's rank in Global Hunger Index

2869. SHRI B.K.HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the Global Hunger Index (updated) brought out by Washington-based International Food Policy Institute ranking India 117th out of 119 countries for prevalence of underweight children;

(b) whether, based on the three indicators—child malnutrition, child mortality and calories deficiency—the Index has rated even the Sub-Saharan countries better than India; and

(c) whether the study has revealed that the factors contributing to such a low ranking to India are the women's social status, followed by sanitation and urbanization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) The report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is not available. However as per the data available on the Internet, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has been developed by the IFPRI capturing three dimensions of hunger; insufficient availability of food, shortfalls in the nutritional status of children and child mortality. India's rank is 93th in the Global Hunger Index. On prevalence of underweight amongest children,

IFPRI has used the data of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2) conducted in 1998-99.

(b) Information shall be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The available data reveal that the low status of Women in South Asian Countries and their lack of nutritional knowledge are important determinants of high prevalence of underwight children in the region.

Street children in Goa

2870. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey regarding street children in Goa;

(b) the arrangements available for the protection of destitute children in the State;

(c) the financial allocations made for their upbringing;

(d) whether State-wise break-up is available;

(e) the financial assistance given to State Government in this regard in the last three years; and

(f) the details of the Schemes, in operation in Goa regarding children both, destitute or other-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Government has a Childen Home and Shelter Home at Merces, Goa. The State Government has also registered 26 Children homes under the Goa Children's Act, 2003. These homes are for care and protection of orphans and other destitute children. Childline service which is a toll free emergency outreach service for children in distress situation, is also functional in Goa.

(c) to (e) Government of India provides for 50 per cent of the expenditure requirements of State Governments for establishing and maintaining homes under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and